To: Dr. Eric Berlatsky

Chair, English Department

Dr. Mark Harvey

Interim Chair, Dorothy F. Schmidt Department of Arts and Letters Undergraduate Programs Committee

From: Dr. Julieann Ulin

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Chair, English Undergraduate Committee

Subject: New Course Requests for Directed Independent Research

 ENC 4915 (graded)

 ENC 4916 (S/U)

 ENL 4915 (graded)

 ENL 4916 (S/U)

 AML 4915 (graded)

 AML 4916 (S/U)

 LIT 4915 (graded)

 LIT 4916 (S/U)

In keeping with University initiatives through the Office of Undergraduate Research to support a research-based curriculum, I submit the following new course requests for Directed Independent Research within the English major.

Currently, the English Department has only one undergraduate independent study course: Directed Independent Study (ENG 4904) 1-4 credits. Therefore, students interested in advanced research in Writing and Rhetoric (ENC), American Literature (AML) or Comparative Literature/Genre (LIT) are unable to enroll in an accurately titled course and students interested in advanced independent research in British Literature enroll in a course with a name that does not reflect its research focus.

The addition of the above courses will allow students to conduct research in our four categories (ENC - Writing and Rhetoric, ENL - British Literature, AML - American Literature, LIT – Comparative Literature/Genre). It will facilitate our ability to track student research in these areas more accurately. The new course names will signal the work being done in these courses. These courses will be assessed through URCC once every three years based on requests for faculty syllabi and samples of student work.

At this time, we plan to keep ENG 4904: Directed Independent Study in the catalog for use in cases where independent reading and study drives the course content.

Below please find the information from the OURI website on DIR courses:

Inclusion of Directed Independent Research option as an alternative/addition to the existing DIS (Directed Independent Study) for undergraduate research documentation on student transcripts. Departments may also include a zero-credit option for DIR students, which would have no additional tuition charge.

DIR New Course Procedures

The Directed Independent Research (DIR) numbering system is being proposed specifically for students engaged in research and inquiry mentored by a faculty member as defined by the departments and colleges. These courses can have a variable credit option including a zero credit option. The DIR specific course numbering system includes the following: (course prefixes to be determined by the departments)

* XXX2915 (lower division for grade)
* XXX2916 (lower division for S/U)
* XXX4915 (upper division for grade)
* XXX4916 (upper division for S/U)

Departments interested in establishing DIR courses will require the completion of a new course form ([here](http://www.fau.edu/ouri/%28http%3A/wise.fau.edu/academic/registrar/UUPCinfo/FAUnewcrseUG.doc)) for each new course being proposed, using the DIR course numbering system provided above. No syllabus is required for DIR courses.

Once the new course forms are approved at the department and college level, faculty can work with the OURI liaisons and submit the new course form directly to the University Undergraduate Programs Committee, UUPC.

For colleges interested in establishing DIR for several departments within a program, chairs can work with your college OURI Liaison ([liaisons](http://www.fau.edu/ouri/OURIFaculty_Liaisons.php)) to complete a comprehensive proposal to be submitted on behalf of the college.